First Innovation Grant Awards Announced

Deputy Director Simon announced awards for the first Innovation Grant initiative. Inventions showing strong commercial promise, yet needing specific development to demonstrate the competitive value to potential customers, investors or industry, were encouraged to apply.

"Berkeley Lab has a distinguished record of scientific discovery, and there are many examples of our discoveries translating into important practical applications that improve the human condition," said Lab Director Paul Alivisatos. "By establishing the Innovation Grants, we hope to improve upon our inspiring tradition of basic science that serves society."

Deputy Director Simon commented, "We were very encouraged to receive nearly 50 highly competitive proposals from a wide range of research areas. This clearly illustrates the many opportunities to move our science into industry and venture enterprises. This is a pilot initiative and we hope that early success of the Innovation Grants will lead to continuation in future years."

Proposals were subjected to a rigorous evaluation process by the Lab's internal business development experts. Several competitive factors that needed to line up included the readiness of the product or service, the feedback and level of interest from candidate licensees and customers demonstrating near term demand, and the magnitude of overall market impact enabled by commercialization of the technology. The finalists were further evaluated by a committee of external investors, industry representatives, entrepreneurs, and technical experts.

This year's awards go to:

- Spectrally Selective Dynamic Window Coatings Based on Nanocrystals - Delia Milliron
- Parallel Software Framework for TOUGH Suite of Codes – George Pau, Stefan Finsterle, and Eric Sonnenthal
- Integrated Geophysical Electromagnetic Seismic Subsurface Imaging - Michael Commer, Greg Newman, and Petr Petrov
- iMEA-Chip Prototyping and Optimization - Daojing Wang, Rafael Gomez-Sjoberg